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THE JERUSALEM
POST
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Travel Abroad

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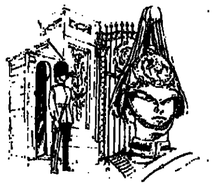

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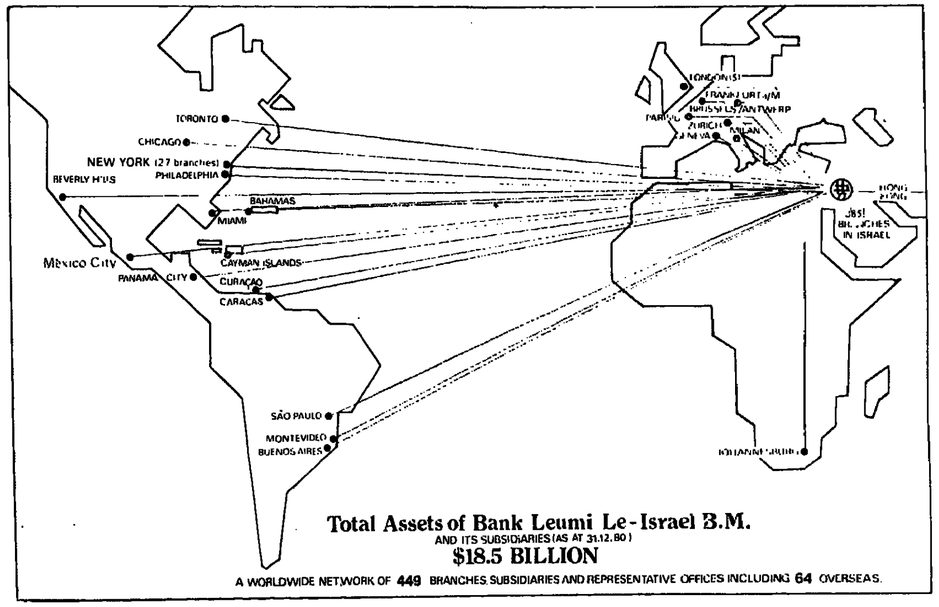

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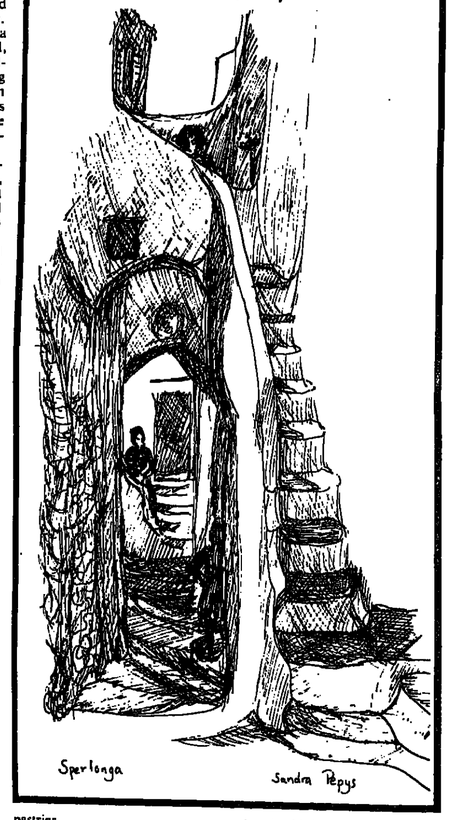
Camping it up

Rome and points south to Capri enchant Sandra Pepys Heidecker and a tent-full of family.



OUR FAMILY took a little time to adjust to camping, although on principle and budget we thoroughly approved.

Our first primitive tent, which was designed as a Mediterranean sunshade, had to be rapidly abandoned by us half-way through the night in the middle of Switzerland. The spot on which we had pitched camp on a deceptively sunny evening, had abruptly become the site of a raging mountain torrent. We spent the rest of a damp night watching the thunder and lighting from our car, arguing as to who had decided we should have a camping holiday.

Early the next day we bought a solid Swiss waterproof tent, and, after two hard nights, some well-padded sleeping bags in a camping gear shop by the Rialto bridge in Venice. *Now* we consider ourselves equipped — especially as we have added some foldable rubber mattresses for the tent floor.

As experienced campers, we considered ourselves ready, last season, for a holiday which consisted almost entirely of continuous travel and camping on and off the beaten track, mainly in southern Italy.

Camping is a well-established form of holiday arrangement for hundreds of thousands of people in Italy as elsewhere in Europe. This is partly due to budgetary reasons but for many, it also has the added attraction of offering a different way of life, away from the concrete blocks and stifling heat of the cities in summer.

People greet each other in camping sites as they have forgotten how to do in the cities. Children wander around freely away from streets and traffic. It's perhaps the next best thing to having your own seaside or countryside villa. (Our kids, aged eight and 11, have enjoyed camping since they were very small.)

Most Italian camping sites are well-equipped to supply the needs of their clients, who stay from a period of a weekend to a whole month or more in one place. The average Italian family comes with enough gear to furnish a small house: their tents are so spacious that they look like small cloth villas. But there is no reason why a family should not have a perfectly satisfactory camping holiday with a small tent and light-weight auxiliary equipment. This will allow you to do all the souvenir shopping you desire — and many Italian goods *are* desireable — without returning home overweight.

Italian camping sites nearly all have an adequate or even gourmet restaurant with à la carte menus at reasonable prices, in addition to the usual coffee bar. The restaurants, like the camping sites themselves, are usually pleasant places overlooking picturesque woods or seascapes.

If you want to do your own cooking, it is useful to know that all sites have shops ranging from mini-markets to full-sized supermarkets. In our experience prices here were the same, if not cheaper, than those at regular shops and supermarkets in town.

ONE OF the most important of Italian institutions, however, is not always to be found on the camping site, rather in the towns and villages. This is the *tavola calda* — literally "hot table" or "warm food" — establishments, the take-away restaurants where many Italian families buy their midday meals and sometimes their supper as well. In these tempting places, you can find a variety of cooked dishes, from pasta and meats to vegetables and pastries.

Italy is unique in that each province and city has retained the traditions and customs, as well as dialects, of centuries of being independent city-states, despite the fact that more than a 100 years have elapsed since the official unification of the country.

As a result, there are considerable differences in cuisine from area to area. Whenever queuing at a *tavola calda*, I look to see what the locals are buying and follow suit.

Shopping follows a similar pattern to that of eating — every area has its own crafts and speciality goods. Many of these you will still only see in the city or village where they are produced. The moral is that you should buy things you like where and when you see them.

The Italian lira is one of the few currencies which regularly devalues against the dollar, if not at quite the same vertiginous rate as the shekel. Your converted shekels will still definitely go a long way in Italy.

Every summer, as irresistibly as a migrating bird, and like millions of people around the globe, I am seized by my annual wanderlust. Just as surely as the birds know their route, I know mine. Wherever we go, it must include Italy, and particularly that coast which enticed the great wanderer, Ulysses — the enchanted stretch beyond the Island of Circe between Rome and Naples on the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Although I would be happy to spend my entire holiday there painting the landscapes and lotus-eating on the beach, the rest of my family thinks otherwise. Owing to inevitable inter-family negotiations, and all the innumerable attractions of Italy, we finally reach a compromise itinerary. This time it was to be at least Sperlonga — the bit Ulysses is reputed to have been keen on — plus off-the-beaten-track parts of the mountainous interior that none of us had visited, and that very few people get to: the Abruzzo. More complex, and, by now acrimonious negotiations led to a satisfactory territorial exchange. I was to get an extra two days at Sperlonga, and they were going to get a drive round to Sorento peninsula with a visit to Capri.

Regarding the first stop on our journey there was no choice, and hence no argument. It was, of course, Rome and we all wanted to see things we had missed on previous visits, and look again at things we liked before. Fortunately, Avis, from whom we had rented a car, had none left in the small category, Fiat 127, which we had booked, so we very happily accepted the alternative, a spacious Ford Opel. (May you be so lucky!)

We had decided we would sleep over at the Flaminio camp site, 8 kilometres from the centre of Rome along the ancient Via Flaminia.

Like all the best holidays, this one got off on the wrong foot, or rather, track. We got lost, and as a result found ourselves on an unscheduled tour of Rome by night, with its Roman temple, Renaissance palaces, and Baroque churches, and fountains as beautiful as ever in the well-placed floodlights.

IT WAS 2.00 a.m. when we finally found our long-sought oasis of secluded rural tranquillity — the Flaminio camping. It is, in fact, only a few minutes drive from Rome, and there is also a frequent bus service into the city centre for those without cars. Despite the late hour, we were warmly welcomed and directed to an uninhabited slope in this large and popular site.

Flaminio is to be recommended as a real *pied-a-terre* from which to see Rome. Cool and fresh even on an August evening and well away from traffic noise, it is a haven for the hot and foot-sore sightseer returning from the compulsive culture-binge that is Rome. Flaminio even has a small swimming pool. The toilets and showers are adequate in number at most hours of the day, and are kept clean.

August is a good time to see Rome, because it is almost entirely empty of Romans. Even the pick-pockets and muggers seem to be on vacation. On the other hand, one soon realizes why they have all fled — the humid heat is almost unbearable. For families travelling with children, the best places to see are the ones where one can cool down, such as the magnificent Trevi Fountain (of "Three Coins in a Fountain" fame), with its extravagant statuary billowing out among the torrents of clear water. Parents can sit and look while children wade in the pool.

FROM ROME and all its glories, it is an easy drive to Tivoli, some 30 kilometres to the east, along the autostrada. Tivoli is another one of these cool refreshing places, that is definitely worth going out of one's way to see. Despite the state of disrepair of some of the fountains and statuary, the watergardens of the Villa D'Este are still an amazing spectacle. Created by Pirro Ligorio for the pleasure of Cardinal Ippolito d'Este, the son of Lucrezia Borgia, the fantastic waterfalls, cascades, and jets of water fill the steep gardens with wonderfully fresh air.

Near Tivoli is also the ruined villa of Hadrian, perpetrator of Aelia Capitolina. From here we joined the Autostrada del Sole on its Rome-Naples section, en route to Sperlonga, in Latina. There is an alternative route along the Via Aurelia to Terracina, and then along the coast, but either way takes about two hours from Rome.

A positive feature of the Italian autostradas are the roadside restaurants. Some of these, are built not so much by the road as over it, or dramatically spanning it. The fare and prices vary, and although they are owned by nation-wide chains, the food in my mind gets better as one goes north.

Leaving the autostrada at Ceprano, we meandered in a leisurely way down through almost Alpine-mountain scenery to the coast, arriving in the evening.

We settled for the night at Le Dune, a large new campsite off the Via Flacca between Terracina and Sperlonga. The site had closed for the evening, but with typical Italian good-will, the manager opened the gate and let the stranded tourists in. Le Dune is a well-equipped, flat site with individual shades for tents or caravans, numerous and clean toilets and showers.

Le Dune is adjacent to a long sandy beach, and is sheltered from sea breezes by high sand dunes. It has a snack-bar and even an outdoor disco, set well away from the tents, with a juke box. Most of the families staying there didn't need outside entertainment: they had brought televisions with them! They had also, literally, brought everything including the kitchen sink. The latest fashion seemed to be a matching kitchen tent, which stood, fully equipped, next to each villa-tent.

We soon tired of Le Dune and moved south to a smaller establishment on the Arenauta beach, 6 kilometres south of Sperlonga. This was Da Anna, occupying shady spaces in what was previously Anna's back garden. Above us was the purple mountain range with tall aloes silhouetted against the sky and the sea was over the road. Anna's establishment also boasted a restaurant with tasty and fresh food prepared by her husband and children.

AT THE RISK of being considered disloyal to the beauty of Jerusalem, I have to confess I find the sunsets of Sperlonga uniquely and awesomely beautiful. I watched each one during our brief stay. The village itself is perhaps close to what the Old City of Jerusalem might be if it overlooked the sea on three sides and were painted white.

Because of the wonderful qualities of the Mediterranean light shining through arches and alleyways, the white walls of Sperlonga reflect amber, blue and mauve — wonderful for painting.

To the north of the village is the long sweep of bay towards the Island (really a peninsula) of Circe; to the south the bay ends in the famous Grotto of Tiberius. The Roman historian Suetonius records that once the decadent emperor was banqueting in this grotto when some large rocks fell from the roof — but missed him.

If you want to eat out in Sperlonga there are a number of fairly expensive restaurants serving good food. When I first knew Sperlonga it had no local specialities, but this has now been rectified, and all the menus offer "typically Sperlongan" dishes. My choice, though, would be one of the non-cheese pizzas hot from the oven at the Pizzeria under the Pensions Corallo at the top of the village. These come with tomato and fresh basil leaves, potatoes, mushrooms or spinach. There are also the regular cheese varieties.

Leaving our tent at Anna's, we next set off happily southwards for our day trip to Amalfi, Positano and Capri. Naples is a place best avoided, despite its magnificent collection of classical sculpture in its Archeological Museum.

CAPRI was more impressive than I thought it would be. This was possibly because there were very few day-trippers about because of the ferry strike. After a good and inexpensive meal in the harbour, we set out for the Blue Grotto. This involves two fees, one for the motor boat which takes you to the entrance to the grotto, and another for the row-boat to which you transfer (in mid-sea) which takes you into the famed cavern.

Returning to the harbour, we took the funiculas up to the town, to the delight of the children. The views of vineyards, olive trees and steep drops to the blue sea were all the literature promises. One could understand the Emperor Tiberius, Gracie Fields, Axel Munthe and Alberto Moravia all going crazy about this place.

The next morning, we set off on our explorations from Sperlonga into less well-trodden territory, to the inland mountain ranges of the Abruzzo. Going via the mountain route, we came out to join the Rome-Pescara autostrada near Avezzano. Soon we were in wild, bare landscape (like Galilee mountains in summer), then, to the joy of the kids, we drove through a massive 7-kilometre-long tunnel to come out in another world, and time, at Anversa d'Abruzzi.

This was a landscape reminiscent of a Romantic painting or poem. (Shades of Coleridge and Kubla Khan!) Feather-green forests overhung deep-green gorges, and still lakes reflected the mountains. There are reputed to be bears wandering here but we failed to see any. Along our route, medieval villages were seen clinging to the edges of precipitous cliffs.

In the late afternoon we came to the charming lake of Scanno and decided to camp there. I Lupi, occupying a meadow above the lake, is a modern camping site with coloured ceramic tiles in the luxury loos and showers, a mini-shop, snack bar and large recreation room with pinball machines.

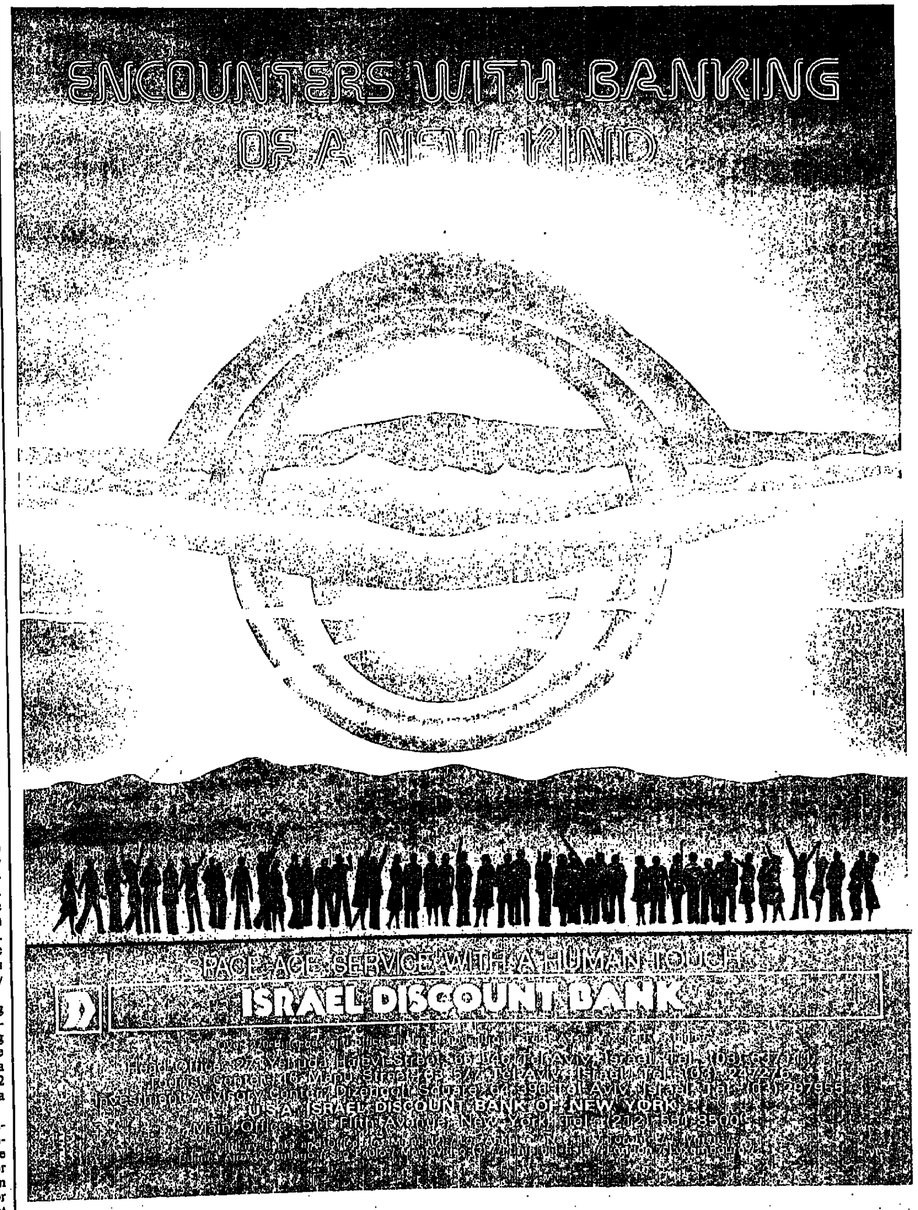
We appreciated the quiet, the crisp mountain air and the unspoilt scenery. It was difficult to believe that we were still far south, almost on the same latitude as Naples.

INFORMATION on travelling to Italy can be obtained from any travel agent or from the Tel Aviv office of Alitalia at 98 Dizengoff (Tel. 03-244141), which acts as the representative for the Italian Ministry of Tourism in Israel. Alitalia usually has a copy of the multi-lingual guide to camping sites and holiday villages in Italy published by Federcampeggi.

A full, detailed listing of camping sites can be purchased from Federcampeggio, the Italian Camping Federation, P.O.B. 649, Florence 50100 Italy. Camping in Italy, at a fully equipped site, usually costs $2 per adult, $1 per child, and $2 for a small tent, per night.

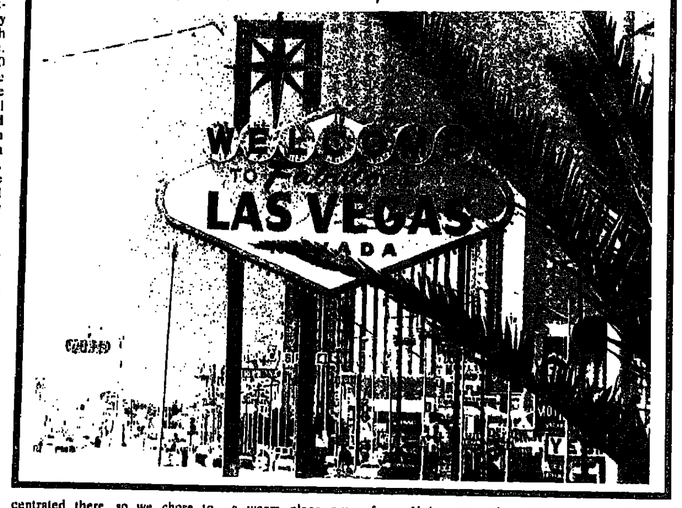
A number of car hire firms, including Avis and Hertz, will rent unlimited mileage cars on advance payment in Israel. Prices quoted for the coming summer range from about $144 to 150 per week for Class "A" car. (This is usually a Fiat 127.) Extra charges to be paid in Italy are insurance, at $4 to $6 per day, and 18 per cent VAT on the total.

Sandra Pepys Heidecker is a freelance travel writer and landscape painter. While travelling, she both writes and sketches.



Three for fun

Ben Shuman finds sun and money in 'Sun Corner U.S.A.'.



SAN DIEGO is sunny, Palm Springs is plushy. And Las Vegas is money.

These were the impressions evoked both before and after a whirlwind, six-day visit to what the tourism promoters for these three communities unitedly call "the Sun Corner of the USA."

These three cities are tourist-oriented and although they already profit from millions of visitors each year, there is always room for more. One target is Israelis, some 125,000 of which each year vecation in the U.S. The "matchmakers" were seven Israeli journalists and an El Al representative who were invited recently to learn first-hand and then write about what San Diego, Palm Springs and Las Vegas have to offer.

First stop: San Diego, the southernmost city in California and now the state's second largest city with a population of over 875,000.

There was barely time to check into the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel before our party was whisked off to browse at some of the 70 speciality stores comprising Seaport Village — the city's newest attraction. It was here, too, that we had our first taste of Mexican-style food (after all, Tijuana is just 25 minutes away) at a restaurant appropriately named The Mexican Restaurant.

San Diego's average annual temperature of 21 degrees Centigrade (70° Fahrenheit), and its location wrapped around a 27-kilometre bay make it an ideal place to visit any time of the year.

But the big drawing card for which the city is known world-wide — and justly so — is the zoo, and that's where we headed the next morning. One doesn't have to be a child, or be with one, to marvel at this outdoor display of some 4,000 animals living in open-moated, natural-habitat enclosures. Everyone loves a zoo, and the San Diego Zoo draws three million visitors annually.

When your time is limited, the best way to see a representative sampling of the animals is by taking the 40-minute bus tour that covers the 100-acre site. There is also a Skyfari aerial tram for a totally different perspective.

The bus driver-guide begins his running commentary by explaining why the pink flamingos at their lagoon just inside the zoo's entrance are standing on one leg — if they weren't, they'd fall down — and then the passengers are off to first-name introductions to the whole gang, the ever-popular polar bears, lions, tigers, elephants and giraffes.

Our hosts evidently assumed that the zoo would be enough animals for us, and so Sea World and the Wild Animal Park were not on our itinerary. But these three attractions bring to mind one important point: San Diego is where you take the kids. Leaving them at home would be criminal.

San Diego is sometimes synonymous with the U.S. Navy. Today the city is home for the largest navy complex in the world; home port for 118 ships and more than 100,000 uniformed personnel.

The tourist who relaxes on a two-hour boat ride into the Bay, as we did aboard the yacht Karen E, comes within camera range of aircraft carriers, atomic subs, cruisers, destroyers and smaller ships.

Squeezed into our agenda was a stop at the Cabrillo National Monument which honours the Portuguese explorer who first claimed the area which is now the West Coast, for Spain in 1542.

At Balboa Park, we arrived before the opening of the many museums and cultural centres concentrated there, so we chose to stroll leisurely through the lush greenery and Spanish/Moorish-style structures. We were surprised to see two women walking around in Elizabethan-era dress. Questioning revealed that their attire was a promotional stunt for the Park's Shakespeare Old Globe Theatre.

One must not overlook the fact that San Diego is a sports-minded area, home to the Padres (baseball), the Chargers (football), the Sockers (soccer) and the Clippers (basketball). And if thoroughbred and greyhound racing interest the tourist, both are readily available.

Palm Springs was the second stop. Whenever President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy come here, they always stay at the 200-acre Sunnylands estate of Walter and Leonore Annenberg. Other visitors to this desert community, two hours from downtown Los Angeles, also go to the Annenberg estate. But there is a difference in their visit.

The Reagans quickly pass through the heavy security at the entrance. You and I, on the other hand, can try every imaginable ruse in the book, and we still won't see anything but the towering trees and shrubbery that shield the estate from every angle.

The Annenberg estate is just one of the million-dollar homes pointed out on the Gray Line tour taken by most visitors.

It was easy to recognize Liberace's home by the mail box shaped like a grand piano.

Homes lived in by the Gabor women, past, present and future, were pointed out, with our friendly guide referring to Zsa Zsa as an excellent housekeeper. "After each divorce, she keeps the house," he said as he accelerated the bus around the curve.

When the guide pointed out the home of "J.R.'s mother," I quickly had a mental picture of Mary Martin and not Barbara Bel Geddes.

It was the migration in the 1930s of motion picture stars in search of a warm place away from Hollywood, that shook the sand out of this sleepy town.

Today, on a busy winter weekend, the population in this year-round resort city swells to nearly 90,000 — more than double the normal population.

There are many things to do in Palm Springs if one swims, golfs or plays tennis. The argument that it is the "tennis and golf capital of the world" is backed by the claim that in the Palm Springs area there are some 300 tennis courts (many of them lit at night) and more than 40 clubs, most of them private.

And as for swimming, residents dip into some 7,000 swimming pools, about one for every five permanent residents. How many whirlpools and saunas is not known. Statistics also were not available on the number of Rolls Royce Silver Shadows. But every other car seems to be a Rolls.

It is claimed that TV and movie stars aren't recluses, that they often come out of their homes to shop at the local supermarket (more likely the Palm Springs branch of Saks Fifth Avenue, Bullocks Wilshire, I. Magnin), to dine at the plush restaurants offering cuisine from around the world (not one Israeli-style restaurant seen), and to stroll along Palm Canyon Drive where palm trees are the street lights.

The rules of the game for tourist vis-a-vis celebrities are: *don't* speak to them unless they speak first, *don't* touch any part of their bodies, and *don't* wave autograph books in their faces.

Those rules are common courtesy. There are other local regulations for which the populace owes the city fathers a debt of gratitude. For example, there isn't one skyscraper to be seen because a building code limits the height of structures to 60 feet. No neon signs are permitted to glow. And, of course, there are no motels which "ruin" the image. Instead there are hotels, resorts, villas, spas, lodges, cabanas, inns, plazas, village manors and clubs — adding up to more tham 6,500 accommodations for visitors.

WITH SO MANY stars around, it seems ironical that they aren't the biggest landlords in Palm Springs. That distinction belongs to the Aqua Caliente band of the Cahuilla Indian tribe who own nearly every other square mile of Palm Springs' chequer-board-patterned 78 square miles. The land was designated a reservation in 1891 when Congress passed the Mission Indian Relief Act.

A panoramic view of the entire Palm Springs area — a truly spectacular scene — is a good reason to ascend to the top of snow-covered Mount San Jacinto. In 15 minutes the aerial tramway whisked us from the Colorado Desert floor, up the sheer Chino canyon to a height of 8,516 feet, transporting us through five different climatic zones.

The third and final leg of our Sun Corner tour was Las Vegas. Vegas is Vegas. One senses it as the plane zeroes in on McCarran International Airport and the Strip comes into view with its huge hotels and casinos, each one more ostentatious than the next, each one beckoning with glaring billboards and marquees. Immediately upon touchdown, that infectious Vegas gambling fever is palpable, the first sounds heard being the whirl of the slot machines. One prays for an introduction to that elusive Lady Luck.

At the left as one enters the Desert Inn and Country Club, is the registration desk, cashier, bell captain, etc., and at the right is the casino with the slots just an arm's-length away. There is a remarkable similarity among the casinos — they're timeless (not a clock in sight) and they're paneless (not a window to look outside to see whether it's day or night).

The year 1981 was a golden one in Vegas as the entire state of Nevada celebrated 50 years of legalized gambling. A cowboy legislator had decided in 1931 that it would be smart to tax the widespread illegal gambling that could then be found nearly everywhere in the state. Vegas got its big push towards glamour and fame 15 years later when on New Year's eve, 1946, Bugsy Siegel opened the Flamingo.

Today the Flamingo, Tropicana, Caesar's Palace, Del Webb Sahara, Sands, Dunes, MGM Grand and the Stardust hotels are some of the landmarks along the Strip. When the Las Vegas Hilton opens 400 additional rooms this year, it becomes the world's largest hotel, with more than 3,200 rooms. And each hotel has a casino or two.

Statistically speaking, Clark County counts 17,820 nickel slot machines, 12,198 25c slots, 8,447 $1 slots. There are 228 crap tables, 1,520 blackjack (or "21") tables and 132 roulette tables.

Many of the casinos bait the prospective customer with the promise of 97.4 to 98 per cent return (payback) on the $1 slots. Some of the new Bally solid state electronic slot machines even light up to say "thank you" and "better luck next time." That's small encouragement to the player dreaming of last year's record $350,000 payoff on a "loose" machine.

CRAPS IS the most potentially profitable game in the casino, but blackjack is the most popular.

To Vegas' credit, it's clean, gambling-wise, with strict enforcement of the gaming laws. The Mob finds it impossible to penetrate the close watch over gambling set up by the Nevada Gaming Commission, the Gaming Control Board and the Gaming Policy Committee, three related but autonomous agencies. Testimony to their *raison d'etre* is that gambling revenue came to more than $1.6 billion in Vegas in 1980.

Vegas is a 24-hour town, with breakfast served around the clock, instant marriage chapels on the corner, fast cashing of out-of-state cheques readily available, and Ladies of the Evening, reliably reported to be respectable women from other cities who have come to walk the Strip and earn a few extra dollars.

There are also stars on the scene performing for astronomical sums. Last year Dolly Parton packed the Riviera for a salary of $350,000 a week.

Dinner shows at the hotels are not priced out of line, with the food and entertainment quite good. Liza Minelli, Ann-Margaret and Wayne Newton were among the recent headliners with names in neon lights.

But the bright lights along the Strip made a mockery of the notice in my Desert Inn room, asking me to turn off the lights when leaving in order to conserve energy. Furthermore, I found the lights in the room dim, impossible to read by, and I concluded that the management doesn't want the guest to linger too long in the room, preferring that he or she get out into the sunshine (to swim, play tennis, shoot golf) or better still — to look for Lady Luck.

Nevertheless, the hotels do provide baby-sitter service and play areas in the event the whole family is on the trip. The children in all probability would prefer such nearby attractions as the man-made Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon, created by a source mightier than man.

As I headed for the airport to catch my United flight to the Midwest, I remembered the words of the city's international press representative. He said it didn't matter what was written about the city, whether it was good or bad, just as long as one writes "Vegas."

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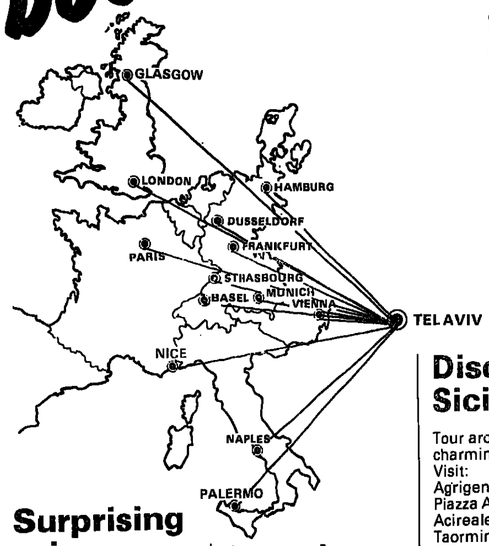

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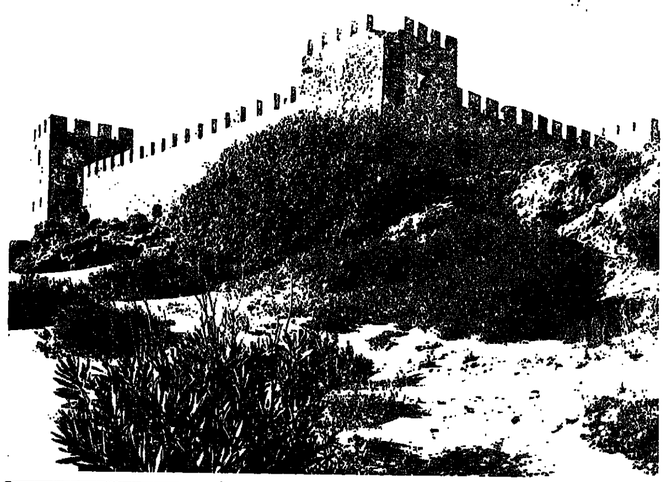

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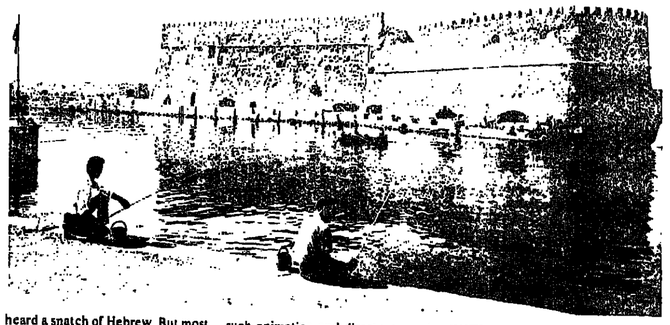

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Pirmasens
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Motherhood around the world

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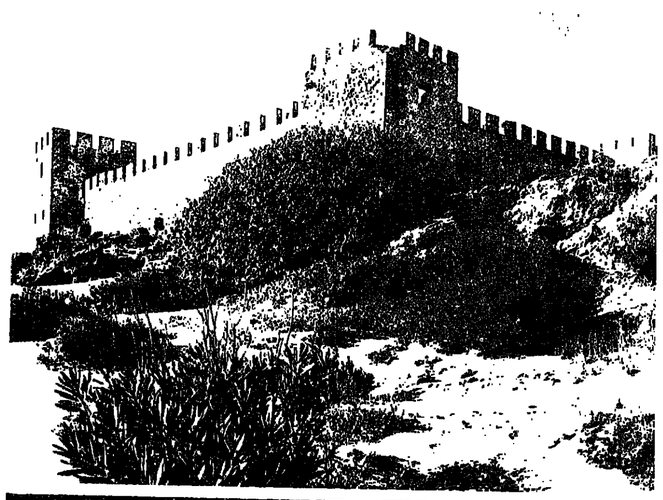

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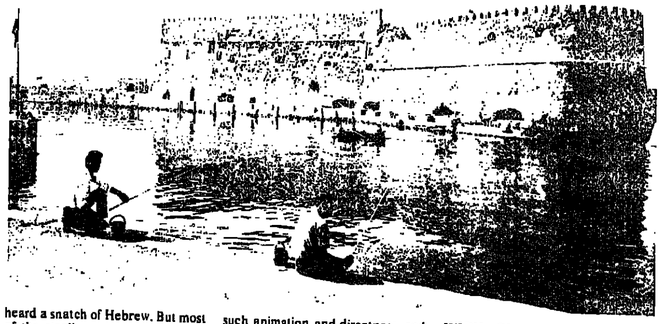

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with frescoes.

This was only one of the many underground refuges burrowed into the ground by Byzantines from the sixth to the tenth centuries as hiding places from Arab raids. Some went

We had come from the town of Kayseri, with its stern Seljuk architecture. But the town is also inviting in its role as a carpet-making centre. In the local bazaar are shop

kilim type.

When one is surrounded by the immense selection, one is of course attracted to the older and far more expensive merchandise. But,

limited by budget, I was forced to settle for a new kilim, with bright synthetic colours. When I brought it home, however, I found that even this rather crude kilim was a remarkable addition to the house.

Far smaller than Kayseri is the village of Urgup, adjacent to the rock churches we had come to see. The village architecture is alpine, with little houses clinging to the mountainside, small wooden balconies jutting out over the abyss. The hotel in which we stayed was also alpine in character, with its warm, friendly atmosphere, rough wooden furnishings and brightly woven decorations. It was here that we chanced upon a French Jewish Maoist who claimed to be a descendent of a famous rabbi and argued long and bitterly. It was with a certain satisfaction that I learned he had been drummed out of the French Communist Party because of his deviationist views.

BUT WE did agree on the wonder of the churches, each carved out of the rock, many of them weirdly shaped as a result of adhering to the conical rock formations. Some are barely large enough for one or two people and the care with which the frescoes had been painted gives evidence to the piety that served to motivate such undertakings. Many of the frescoes are damaged as a result of Moslem or Christian fervour, but others remain perfect in their strange solitude.

The food, as usual in Turkey, was excellent. For those who think they are going to get a replay of Middle Eastern cuisine, there are, it is true, many dishes that are similar, but there is also a great diversity of food with which we are quite unfamiliar.

After dinner we went out for a walk in the village streets, only to find the most amazing of outdoor scenes. In a sort of circus without a tent, a great crowd of people was squatting around a ring, where acrobats, fire-eaters and a trained bear performed. Quite as interesting as the performers was the audience — the men were seated on one side of the ring, the women on the other. They cheerfully squeezed together to make room for us.

It would be an exaggeration to say that Cappadocia is easy to get to. Only one airline, El Al, flies between Lod and Istanbul, the Turkish Airlines having stopped their service to Israel in the wake of the furor over the Jerusalem Law. It has been some years since the best means of getting to Turkey, the Turkish Maritime Lines, stopped calling at our ports. From Istanbul one must go by air, rail or road to Ankara and from there, a bus or rented car will take you to the heart of Urgup. None of the low-cost charters go to Turkey. Still, it's worth a visit.

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	Iro	Tourist	B. Breakfast	$ 332	$ 239

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Philadelphia story

PHILADELPHIA spent some $50 million for the U.S. Bicentennial celebration in 1977 and although the city had plenty to offer, it was disappointed with the effect it had on tourism.

Then Philadelphia fixed up a pleasant waterfront, refurbished Independence Park, moved the Liberty Bell into a glass-and-steel pavilion, and opened seven museums. But of the 20 million tourists expected, only 11 million came and City Hall was criticized for the lavish investment.

The city will try to capitalize on that investment during the coming months as it celebrates its 300th anniversary. It is determined not to repeat the mistakes of 1977.

According to Samuel B. Rogers, the director of public relations of the city's Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the problem then was that too few events had been planned to attract tourists.

Therefore, he continued, instead of just saying: "Come to Philadelphia because it's 300 years old and having a birthday party," City Hall is investing $2m. in special events to attract visitors.

The events are mainly geared to music lovers, sailing enthusiasts and gourmets. They are scheduled until October, exactly 300 years after William Penn — the city's founder — arrived here on a ship from England.

SOME OF THE events planned may not induce people to travel long distances here. However, Philadelphia is conveniently situated about half-way between New York and Washington, D.C. — two other "musts" for tourists — with a two-to-three-hours drive from each.

After the flower show which ends the last week in March, the next happening is on April 25 when the Queen Elizabeth II luxury-liner arrives from Southampton, symbolically retracing William Penn's voyage on his ship, the Welcome. The ship will be open for limited public touring until April 28 and will serve as the back-drop for a mini-festival of music and other entertainment.

From May 1 through 28 the centre of activities will move to the city's restaurants for what the organizers call a "feasting festival." Some 3,000 chefs including 18 top chefs from all over the world are scheduled to demonstrate their expertise in classes, seminars and some of the city's 450 restaurants.

At the end of May, a restaurant festival called "Al Fresco" will be held along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway where more than 100 stands will offer different foods.

THE FINALS of the Great American Choral competition are also scheduled for the end of May, bringing some 4,000 singers of quartets, gospel groups and choirs here. The highlight is scheduled for the weekend of Memorial Day when all 4,000 voices will sing outdoors in an international atmosphere.

The focus of attention will return to the river banks on June 17 when more than 35 Tall Ships arrive from Venezuela in a stately procession culminating the International Sail Training Tall Ships Race.

Joshua Brilliant

Germany - a fairy tale.

18.4—22.4.82 Berlin
BERLIN INTERCHIC
Main Sampling
יריד הלבשה בברלין

21.4—28.4.82 Hanover
Hanover Fair
יריד הנובר

25.4—28.4.82 Dusseldorf
IGEDO
133rd International Fashion Trade Fair
יריד בינלאומי לאופנה בדיסלדורף

4.5—7.5.82 Frankfurt
INTERSTOFF
Trade Fair for Clothing Textiles
יריד לאריגי לבוש בפרנקפורט

7.5—11.5.82 Pirmasens
IMS International Footwear Manufacturing Fair
יריד בינלאומי לייצור נעליים בפירמסנס

18.5—22.5.82 Cologne
IMB — International Fair of Clothing Manufacturing Machines
יריד בינלאומי למכונות בענף ההלבשה בקלן

4.6—17.6.82 Dusseldorf
DRUPA 1982
8th International Fair Printing and Paper
יריד בינלאומי לדפוס ולנייר בדיסלדורף

6.6—12.6.82 Frankfurt
ACHEMA
Chemical Engineering Exhibition with Congress
תערוכת הנדסה כימית וקונגרס בפרנקפורט

28.8.—1.9.82 Frankfurt
Frankfurt International Fair
יריד בינלאומי בפרנקפורט

30.8.—31.8.82 Berlin
BERLIN INTERCHIC
יריד הלבשה בברלין

9.9—12.9.82 Munich
ISPO — International Sports Equipment Fair
יריד בינלאומי לציוד ספורט במינכן

12.9—15.9.82 Dusseldorf
IGEDO
134th International Fashion Trade Fair + 99th IGEDO — Dessous Trade Fair for Lingerie, Foundations, Swimwear
תצוגה בינלאומית לאופנה ויריד ללבנים ובגדי ים בדיסלדורף

14.9—19.9.82 Frankfurt
Automechanika
International Exhibition for Equipment for Motor Cars, Workshops and Service Stations, Motor Car Spare Parts Accessories
תצוגה בינלאומית לציוד למוסכים, לתחנות שרות ואביזרי רכב בפרנקפורט

21.9—26.9.82 Munich
IKOFA
14th International Trade Fair of the Food Industry
יריד בינלאומי לתעשית המזון במינכן

25.9—27.9.82 Dusseldorf
GDS — International Footwear Fair
יריד בינלאומי לנעליים בדיסלדורף

6.10—12.10.82 Cologne
PHOTOKINA
World Fair of Photography — Photo Cine, Audiovision
יריד עולמי לצילום בקלן

6.10—11.10.82 Frankfurt
34th International Book Fair
יריד הספר בפרנקפורט

10.10—13.10.82 Berlin
BERLIN INTERCHIC
Main Sampling
יריד הלבשה בברלין

24.10—28.10.82 Frankfurt
HOGA
International Trade Show for the Hotel and Catering Industry
יריד בינלאומי למלונאות וקייטרינג בפרנקפורט

24.10—27.10.82 Dusseldorf
IGEDO
135th International Fashion Trade Fair
יריד בינלאומי לאופנה בדיסלדורף

2.11—5.11.82 Frankfurt
INTERSTOFF
Trade Fair for Clothing Textiles
יריד לאריגי לבוש בפרנקפורט

9.11. —13.11.82 Munich
ELECTRONICA
International Trade Fair for components and Assemblies in Electronics
יריד בינלאומי לרכבים אלקטרוניים במינכן

27.11—1.12.82 Berlin
ANTIQUA
Antiques Exhibition
תצוגת עתיקות בברלין

Dates subject to change.

There are more Fairs and Exhibitions held in Germany than in all other European countries combined. Here are some of them. We can give you useful information on these and other events, arrange your visit, and a little holiday on top of it.

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Four seasons

IT IS probably the only city in the world that proclaims a public holiday to celebrate a horse-race!

The Melbourne Cup, on the first Tuesday in November, is famous all over the world. Racing, beer and football might well be contenders for the national "religion," as Australians are fanatical about all three.

Although it is an expensive trip from Israel — the cheapest flight now is $1490 return with a stop-over in Singapore — you'll get your money's worth. You can fly from Athens with QANTAS, Australia's national airline or there's a direct non-stop flight via Rome with Alitalia if you can take being airborne for 30 hours.

A visit to Melbourne is a rewarding experience, especially if combined with visits to Sydney, the glamour city 1,000 km. to the north, and to Queensland's Gold Coast with its Surfer's Paradise, exactly what its name implies.

Melbourne is a sophisticated city, the second largest in Australia and its business and financial centre. Three million people live there in attractive suburbs sprawling over 4,360 km. It is a city of wide, straight streets, magnificent 19th-century stone buildings, and wonderful parks and gardens.

Although they say that Melbourne is the only place where you can experience all four seasons in one day, it is usually cool in spring and autumn; hot in summer (December to February) up to 40°C., and cold in winter (down to 5° C.).

Magnificent Victorian stone public buildings and private homes abound in Melbourne, one of the loveliest being Rippon Lea which stands in 13 acres of gardens and was a private home for 63 years. The mansion has 33 rooms and the gardens reflect an attempt to follow in the tradition of English landscapes. There are avenues of oaks, elms, poplars and willows, interspersed with Australian eucalyptus and immense sweeps of lawn. There's a lake, a fernery and a cactus garden with octagonal summer houses.

But the old mansions echo the past, and Melbourne is also moving into the future. Nearing completion is the fabulous Victorian Arts Centre costing close to $2 million. It comprises the National Gallery, and three theatres — the State Theatre, seating 2,000 for ballet and opera, the Playhouse for drama seating 870, and the Studio, a performing area for experimental theatre and mini-concerts. On top is a 115-metre high structure not unlike the Eiffel Tower.

The most exciting part of the complex is the Concert Hall with an immense auditorium seating 2,500. It will be home to the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australia Ballet, the Victoria State Opera and the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Melbourne is an affluent community and most people live in the suburbs in single or double-storey houses with large gardens back and front. Most families own two cars, but there is public transport, including electric trams.

Highlights for visitors include the Royal Botanical Gardens, Captain Cook's Cottage, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, a Railway Museum, a floral clock, the Shrine of Remembrance and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

Dvora Waysman

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(Werner Braun)

Sun and ski

Don't put summer skiing on ice, writes Werner Braun.

YOU CAN have your summer vacation and still indulge in one of life's greatest (winter) pleasures: skiing. The place? Zermatt, Switzerland — from May or June through September.

Unbelievable, you may say, but in many respects skiing will be far better then than during the high season in February and March. There will be fewer places to choose from — many close down in April — but those which are open you will have all to yourself under a warm and friendly sun. (Don't forget your suntan lotion.) A one-week pass is available during the summer for skiers at Zermatt, for use of the four cable cars and ski-lifts, for SFR132 (about $75). This is a real bargain if you consider that a single return ticket from Zermatt to where the skiing is on Little Matterhorn usually costs SFR40. If you are a beginner or do not intend to ski very much, the cost will be even lower. And ski equipment rental is, of course, cheaper as well during the summer months.

Your first ascent will be an exhilarating experience. The cable car at Zermatt — for which there will be no hour-long waiting line as during the high season — will take you from an altitude of 1620 metres, to Furi at 1864m. There you change and travel to 2432m. at Furgg. From this point on there is snow, at least in May and probably June.

Change cable cars again and ascend to a lofty 2940m. at Trockener Steg. On your way you will already observe skiers below. Do not leave the station for the ski-lifts, but take the gondola to the top of Little Matterhorn, located at the towering altitude of nearly 4,000m. This is the highest cable car in Europe and a mind-boggling feat of Swiss engineering, completed less than three years ago.

The distance from the last pylon up to the eagle's nest on top of Little Matterhorn is nearly five kilometres which, as far as I know, is the longest such span in the world.

ARRIVING AT the top, the view as well as the thin air will literally take your breath away. (I myself always feel a bit guilty for getting all the way up in 40 easy minutes when the trip would normally take two days if you hiked, loaded with mountain-climbing paraphernalia.) At this elevation, you should be careful not to exert yourself too much until you get used to the oxygen-poor air, which takes a few days. This is not an experience for persons with a heart condition.

You might expect difficult downhill skiing from such a giant mountain, but that is not the case. It isn't for beginners, but the going is relatively easy and the snow will be superb if it is not too early in the morning.

You have now about 15km. down-hill to the Furgg station with no really difficult parts. If you are experienced you can try the ultimate in alpine skiing: *wedeling* down in deep snow. What more could a skier ask?

A few interesting facts about Zermatt: Until 1954, the quaint little town was exclusively a summer resort with no facilities for skiing. During the next seven years, it was transformed into a ski resort. Today, after an investment of hundreds of millions of francs, it is considered one of the greatest ski resorts in the Alps — and *the* greatest summer ski site.

Cars are not permitted in Zermatt. Taxis and hotel vehicles are all battery-driven so the air remains clean and unpolluted. The whole place is geared solely to tourism with 100 hotels providing 6,000 rooms. Hotel No.101 is in the process of being built.

Another 10,000 "beds with breakfast" are available in private establishments with self-catering units which reduce your expenses by half. (We picked a spic-and-span one-room flat in House Styria opposite the cable car station, which cut the usually long tramp there with heavy ski equipment. Price: SFR35 a day, about $17.

At this writing, I am sitting in our apartment looking at the majestic Matterhorn through our picture window. At 9.00 the last rays of the sun paint it a glowing pink. A few clouds busy themselves dressing and undressing the lofty rocks above. It is May and tomorrow we will fly in the snow.

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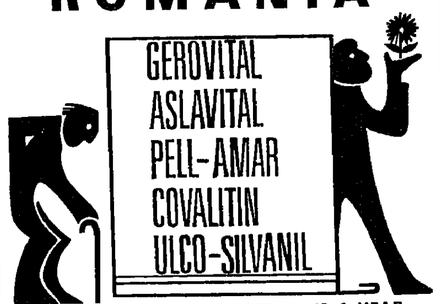

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World enough and time

'A world-in a country' is the way South Africa is being billed, writes Baruch Saville.

SOUTH AFRICA's real eye-catching attraction is not its gold or diamonds but its infinite variety of unforgettable places and experiences which await the adventurous tourist.

It is no wonder that the SATOUR tourist office bills it as "a world in a country," for South Africa offers travellers the opportunity to see a colourful, exciting world vastly different from their own. And what better excuse for those living in the northern hemisphere than to leave the bitter cold of winter for South Africa's delightful summer.

Many tourists' first experience in the country is visiting Johannesburg, the country's commercial capital.

Johannesburg, a city of two million, boasts some fine hotels including, for example, the Landdrost and the Carlton. The city's fine shops compare with the best in the world and the cost of many items is comparatively quite low. A high-rise city which has grown upwards and outwards over the last two decades, "Jo'burg" — as the city is affectionately nicknamed — is actually still regarded as a mining town with vast reserves of gold almost a stone's throw away from one's hotel.

Just outside the city are the "Pyramids of Gold," or so they look although they are really the *residue* of some 1,600 million tons of mined rock that produced, over the past century, some 1,000 million ounces of gold.

A must is a visit to the city's old historic gold mines where one can still see the precious metal being extracted and smelted. In addition, the mine workers perform tribal dances regularly for visitors — a most colourful sight.

To really get the full excitement of gold-mining, there are day tours to the Great Premier Diamond Mine where the world's largest diamond, the 3024 carat Cullinan stone, was discovered. This tour includes a visit to Pretoria, a delightful city with much Old World charm and elegance.

IF ONE has the time to take trips outside of Jo'burg, a nice route is via the Kruger National Park, Swaziland, and eventually on down to Durban.

Some 400 km. from the city, in the setting of the Drakensberg mountain range, is Cathedral Peak, nearly 3,000 metres high. The Peak is perched on the ledge of towering mountains, with nearby streams providing excellent trout. From the Peak to Durban is another 230 km.

Durban is the country's coastal capital with good climate year-round, and a sea — part of the Indian Ocean — which is always pleasant to swim in. The city boasts many good hotels, such as the Indian-style Maharini and the adjacent Elangeni, both part of the fast-growing and excellent Southern Sun Hotels chain.

In addition, there are dozens of low-cost apartment hotels, in which one can stay for a week, month or even a year, all fully equipped and located on Durban's wonderful Golden Mile — a stretch of beautiful beaches along the ocean.

At night, Durban lights up and the hotels are full of guests making their way to discotheques, night clubs, bars, etc.

Durban is within a reasonable distance of some of the most scenic and exciting parts of South Africa. A drive away are no less than 50 beaches on the coastline, stretching from the Tugela river northwards to the Umtamvuna river (in the south) on the border of Transkei. Game and nature reserves abound. Of the Zulu reserves, most popular perhaps are the Umfolozi and the Hluhuwe where the game can be viewed either from a vehicle or, with a ranger on a trek through the bush.

THE EASIEST way to get to the Kruger National Park, one of South Africa's highlights, located in the northeastern part of the country, is to fly with COMAIR to Skukuza. After landing, one drives in a microbus to one of the camps in the Park. During the summer season (15 October to 20 March), there are seven camps open with accommodation in African-type housing, and hotel services.

The Kruger animal reserve, covering thousands of square kilometres, has no less than 2,400 km. of roads offering spectacular views of flora and fauna. There are lions — over 1200 of them — elephants, zebras, impala, roan antelope, leopards, cheetahs, giraffes, wildebeest, baboons and monkeys, wild dogs, snakes and hippopotami, jackals, hyenas, rhinos, etc. etc. etc.

(Israel Talby)

Generally, a two-week tour of South Africa would include several plane fights: going from the Kruger Park to Capetown entails a short hop in a small F27 to Johannesburg from where one transfers to an Airbus for the Cape flight.

Capetown is much different from other cities in South Africa. It is scrupulously clean, the air crisp and non-polluted. The popular Heerengracht Hotel in the centre is most comfortable after the two flights from the Park.

As with every other city, there are several very good tours to take from Capetown. One can go to Paarl, a delightful little town and the centre of South Africa's large wine industry. The ride to the top of the Paarl Rock, from where one can see the serene Wagon Makers Valley, is breath-taking. Or, there is Stelenbosch, the unique university town. Lunch is pleasant at the Nederburg Winery where samples of South Africa's most excellent wines are given out for free after a tour.

Getting there

AT A TIME when some countries are trying to drum up tourism, finding room for travellers on the planes is the major problem for South African tourist authorities.

South Africa, perhaps because of its low hotel and restaurant prices, is a country that seems to attract more individual tourists than large travelling groups, according to David Rosam, head of the South African tourist office in Tel Aviv. Hotels, he says, run about half the price of what similar accommodation would cost in Europe or the U.S. For instance, a steak dinner with appetizer, dessert and a good wine costs about $20 — for two.

For those who do want to go by guided tour, there are two three-week trips offered which leave from Israel, one costing $2,350, the other $2,900. Rosam adds that the country is so big that three weeks is hardly enough time to see it.

One of the prime attractions for many visitors is, naturally, the game reserves. These are especially good to visit, he notes, in the months that are summer in Israel and winter in South Africa — the dry season there when the grass is lower and animals tend to congregate at the waterholes.

A popular innovation is a "flying safari," a $250 excursion which includes accommodation and guide. In a park larger than the State of Israel, the guides know where the animals congregate.

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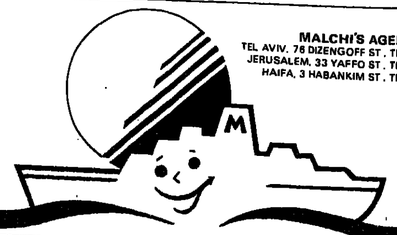

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A bite of the apple

Diana Lerner suggests a variety of things to do in New York in the springtime.

THE WINTER cold is thawing slowly, but spring is in the air and New York's bursting into a dazzle of colour and activity.

Now is a perfect time for strolling, sniffing, sight-seeing, window-shopping, skating, rowing, bicycling, horseback riding. Also for taking in the circus, major league baseball, a Broadway play, the last of the ballets and operas, concerts, street fairs, museum shows, restaurants, bars, parks and the street-life of the Big Apple.

The weather may be in turn, crisp, balmy, drizzly or windy, but you will be able to step out and enjoy walking in the city. Look around you as you walk — and be sure your shoes are comfortable! Don't carry too much, have a hat with a brim (if you avoid umbrellas as I do), or a folding umbrella you can put into your tote bag.

Here are some of the thousand things you may enjoy on your visit to the Big Apple this spring:

Start with a **sightseeing tour** by bus, either with a guided commercial line, or the New York-run Culture Buses which take you to different tourist sights. You may get off at any of these and resume your tour without extra charge.

A **boat trip around Manhattan** is a thrilling excursion. It starts from Pier 83, end of West 43rd Street.

Walks in different neighbourhoods are a must. Don't miss such landmarks as: **The Empire State Building Observatory** on the 102nd floor; **Rockefeller Center** — skyscrapers linked by a maze of underground passages with an outdoor skating rink, garden and a promenade of fancy restaurants. (Nearby is El Al and across the street is Bank Hapoalim.) The **Citicorp**, with its diagonal roof, is one of the marvels of 20th-century architecture. Covered entirely in aluminium, it has a plaza of boutiques and restaurants and an atrium where one may sit to meet friends and hear free concerts.

At the other end of town is **The World Trade Center** with its Twin Towers. Its restaurant **Windows on the World** commands a breath-taking view of the harbour and on a clear day, you may catch a glimpse of the **Statue of Liberty**.

While downtown, visit **City Hall, Wall Street** and the **American Stock Exchange**. You may watch the trading floor from a gallery and see multi-media exhibits.

Not far away is **Chinatown**, The century-old centre of that Oriental community.

South Sea Port on Fulton Street has several ships to board for free and outdoor shows for children. There is also a museum on the pier.

SOHO, the area bounded by West Broadway, Canal and Lafayette Streets, has cast-iron buildings some of which have been converted to residential lofts, museums, galleries and restaurants. It is fascinating to explore with its quaint shops and sights.

Washington Square Park, in Greenwich Village is where you will see chess players outdoors bent over their games, or catch a guitar festival or some other kind of show going on almost without interruption at any time of day. Particularly worth visting on Sunday mornings.

Greenwich Village is lined with interesting sights and has a number of the off-Broadway shows in the vicinity.

Take a **Staten Island Ferry** across from Manhattan to this borough (district), or if you are game, take a Port Authority Bus to Atlantic City. The trip takes only two-and-a-half hours and you get a rebate for the fare on arrival and can enjoy the casino gambling there.

Off-Track Betting is the government-run operation which is the sport for thousands of New Yorkers and visitors. You can enter any of the OTB branches (open seven days a week) free: they are scattered all over.

The **New York Botanical Gardens** and Zoo in the Bronx are easily accessible and contain exhibits of plants of the world in its Crystal Palace.

Similarly the **Brooklyn Botanical Gardens** feature rose and herb gardens and a fragrance garden for the blind.

There are endless **flea markets** and street scenes to visit as you walk around. Try the **Antiques Fair** at 26th Street and Sixth Avenue (also known as Avenue of the Americas), for bric-a-brac, jewelry, lace etc. on Sundays from April through October.

The **Canal Street Flea Market** and **Essex Street Flea Market** are near the shopping district where you may get your 220-volt electrical appliances.

While downtown you may savour kosher dairy food at **Shmulke Bernstein's Kosher delicatessen** and Chinese Restaurant for the best in pastrami, cornbeef, or chop suey.

Central Park has a **skating rink**, a **bicycle trail**, (you can rent the bike on the spot), and **horseback riding**. Besides, on a warm day, you may take a rowboat out or enjoy some of the public celebrations announced in newspapers weather permitting.

Another favourite with the children will be the **Barnum and Bailey Circus** which comes to Madison Square Garden in the spring where these days, the antics are electrifying.

BUT DON'T miss walking around the streets, entering the high buildings of New York, seeing a **Broadway or Off-Broadway show**, a **Carnegie Hall or Lincoln Center** concert, ballet or opera.

The **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, with its Lehman Wing and the new treasures of primitive art displayed in the $18 million Michael Rockefeller wing, is legendary. Also, there is a good show on 18th-century women in the costume gallery of the museum. The **Whitney Museum and Gugenheim Museum** offer excellent shows.

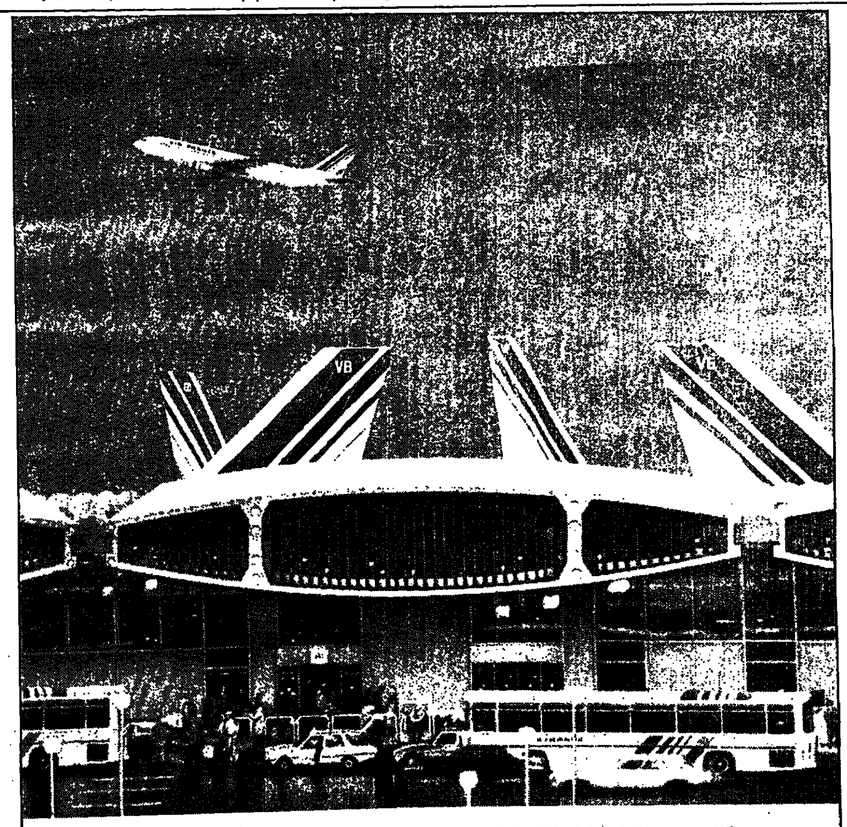
A few blocks north of 92nd Street is the **Jewish Museum**. Southwards, there is the **Cooper Hewitt** which always has something of interest. Other sights to see are the **Frick Museum**, the new **Hyatt Hotel**, **The Royal Palace Hotel** and the **Morgan Library**, with a famous collection of rare Americana and a Gutenberg Bible.

One of my favourite museums is the **Museum of the City of New York** which has a fascinating collection of N.Y. memorabilia as well as models of the harbour and early Dutch settlement.

Even if you cannot afford the prices, a must is a visit to **Bloomie's** (Bloomingdales Department store, **Macy's**, the largest department store in the world with its fascinating basement, and the **Cellar** and **Zabar's** on West 81st and Broadway.

For sites with a view of the skyscrapers, the best are still **The Rainbow Room**, the **Top of the Sixes**, **Windows on the World** and the **Empire State Building**.

Don't consider your visit complete if you haven't browsed around the famous bookshops of New York. You can get absolute bargains at **Barnes and Noble** bookstores scattered all over the metropolis.



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